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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/660,521	PASSMAN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Man Phan	2665	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to communications filed 11/15/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 15-17 and 7-14 and 19-27 and 32-36, 2-6, 37 and 38-41 (Claims are renumbered as 1-36 respectively).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 12 September 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>12/09/04</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Reasons for allowance

1. This communication is in response to applicant's 11/15/2004 Amendment in the application of Passman et al. for an "Using direct cluster member to cluster member links to improve performance in mobile communication systems" filed 09/12/2000. The proposed amendments have been entered and made of record. Claims 29-31 have been canceled per Applicant's request, and new claims 32-41 have been added. Claims 1-17, 19-25 have been amended. The claims have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention.

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Edward A. Gordon (Reg. #54130) on April 22, 2005.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 39: line 1, replace "claim 33" with --claim --

Claim 41: line 2, replace "claim 36" with --claim 4--

Cancel the withdrawn claims 18, 28.

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4. Claims 1, 15-17 and 7-14 and 19-27 and 32-36, 2-6, 37 and 38-41 are allowable as evident by applicant's amendment (Claims are renumbered as 1-36 respectively)

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The closest prior art of record, either singularly or in combination, fails to disclose or suggest an electronic processor circuit configured to determine the strength of a signal received from a second communication station through said transceivers, and determines whether to communicate with the second communication station directly or to communicate with the second communication station by routing messages through a cluster head affiliated to said first mobile communication station based on the signal strength; communicates with the second communications station directly when the RSSI of the second communication is greater than the RSSI of the affiliated cluster head plus an additional value, as specifically recited in the claims. The instant invention, in combination with the other claimed features, improves upon the Prior Art by providing a method and system for using direct cluster member to cluster member links to improve performance in mobile communications systems.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Man U. Phan whose telephone number is (571) 272-3149. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 6:00 am to 3:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Huy Vu can be reached on (571) 272-3155. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have any questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at toll free 1-866-217-9197.

MPhan

04/22/2005

Man U. Phan
MAN U. PHAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER